



School of Law

Case Western Reserve University  
11075 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7148

Fax 216-368-2086  
<http://www.law.case.edu>

June 21, 2007

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

RE: Docket # 07 - 16

Dear Secretary Dortch:

There are two sides to Cleveland I see every day, and the differences are staggering. One side uses technology to seize the future, and the other lacks the ability to even access that future.

My students at Case Western Reserve University School of Law represent the best society has to offer -- bright, eager and ambitious young people familiar with computer technology and wired into the global realm through electronics, media devices, and whatever the latest technology has to offer. Case Western Reserve University has a wireless-broadband network available to all who visit our campus, and that network is used every day to learn, teach, study, and communicate. My own courses regularly use video, audio files and other multimedia to teach my privileged students more effectively, and my students capitalize on those advantages every day. These students represent our next generation of leaders, and they know the future is theirs.

But less than a mile from my wireless-broadband campus, thousands of Cleveland's school children lack even dial-up access to the Internet. During my five years as a school board member of the Cleveland Municipal School District (1999 - 2004), I learned that educational technology and distance learning software are useless for students who lack access to the Internet at home. Despite their limitless potential, the bright, eager, and ambitious young people in the Cleveland Municipal Schools are not playing on a level playing field with my privileged law students. Students who lack the advantages of computers, digital technology, and connectivity also lack awareness of the immensity of the world around them. The inability to connect with that broader world too often translates into a message that the future is for other children; children who are richer, whiter, and better connected in more ways than one.

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FAX NO. 2163882086

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The proposal submitted by M2Z Networks is no cure-all for all of the evils of poverty, of course, but it is an excellent and exciting first step. Offering free, broadband Internet access would be a small but important way to begin closing the gap between my two student populations. Cleveland school children would have one less gap to leap in their quest to succeed. Internet access also allows the computer to become a communication tool between the schools and the parents and between the teachers and the students. It allows students to more easily work to bridge the gaps of their circumstances, and achieve their dreams.

The FCC should do what it can to help create a future in which leaders emerge from all economic backgrounds, and success is measured by knowledge, not dollars. I endorse the proposal submitted under docket item 07 - 16 and urge the FCC's approval.

Sincerely,



David J. Carney  
Associate Professor of Law - Lawyering Skills  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

CC: FCC Chair Kevin Martin  
Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell  
FCC Wireless Bureau Chief Fred Campbell  
Senator George Voinovich  
Senator Sherrod Brown  
Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones